

13

Friends of  
Sarah P. Duke Gardens  
Magazine

Spring  
Issue No.  
57

# flora



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# flora

Flora editor: Orla Swift

Cover photo: Japanese black pine (*Pinus thunbergii* "Thunderhead"). Photo by Robert Ayers. Additional photos by Robert Ayers, Stefan Bloodworth, Lee Capps, Rick Fisher, Jason Holmes, Paul Jones, Alice Le Duc, Mike Owens, Satsuki Scoville, Orla Swift, Howard Sykes, Charles Twine

Centerfold: Bamboo (*Phyllostachys viridis* "Robert Young") and Japanese-style arched bridge in the W.L. Culberson Asiatic Arboretum. Photo by Rick Fisher.

Full-page photos: Robert Ayers (pg. 10); Lee Capps (pg. 15); Gothic Pavilion in the Page-Rollins White Garden);

Rick Fisher (pg. 19); Michelle Rawlins (pg. 4); Mark Svoboda (pg. 14); Terrace Gardens and Frances P. Rollins Overlook).

CONNECT ONLINE:





# dear friends,

Welcome to our latest edition of *Flora*. After three years of near constant construction, tranquility returns to Duke Gardens in 2013. As I write, the plantings added to and around our new features – including the Main Entry Allée, the Mary Duke Biddle Rose Garden and the Page-Rollins White Garden – are breaking dormancy. Our usual late winter display of redbuds and magnolias in the Asiatic Arboretum is a bit late, as we actually *had* a winter this year...but spring is in the air.

In the following pages you will discover some of our curators' favorite plants and gain insight into their design process. Paul Jones discusses his enhancement of our Moss Garden and Mike Owens takes us through the planning for our seasonal displays on the Terraces. Jan Little takes a look ahead to the first full year of programming in the Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden and Orla Swift introduces us to the new Duke Gardens website.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the volunteers and Duke Students who work with us and the new additions to our staff, including our first endowed position, the Paul J. Kramer Plant Collections Manager (early Duke botanist Paul Kramer was the Gardens' first director, serving from 1945-1975). We simply cannot deliver horticultural excellence year after year without the dedication of our volunteers, students and staff... and we cannot thank them enough.

Duke Gardens ranks among the top public gardens in America. There is so much going on in and around the Gardens that it is hard cover it all in just a few pages. I hope you have a chance to visit soon and often. And, as always, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

William M. LeFevre  
Executive Director



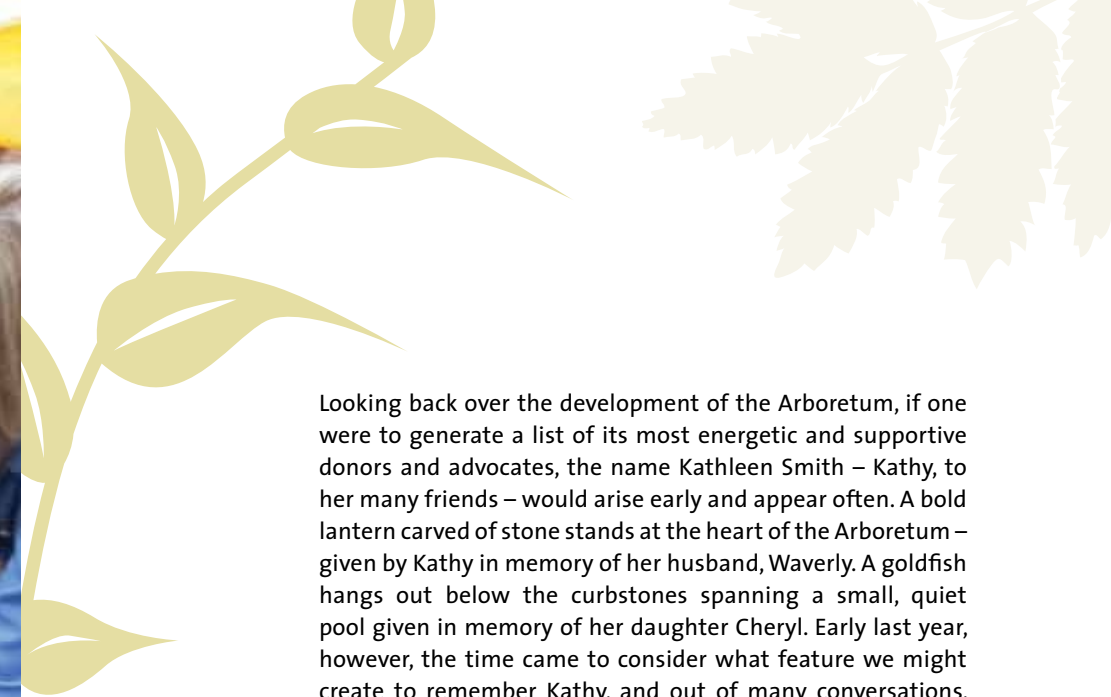
moss garden

From left: A moss-covered lantern and mossy grotto in Kenroku-en in Kanazawa City, considered one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan.

## shaping a moss garden

By Paul D. Jones, Curator, W.L. Culberson Asiatic Arboretum

*While it may be true that a rolling stone gathers no moss, it's equally certain that a stone at rest, embraced by the cool shade and moist air of Appalachian forests, will become adorned with a mosaic of mosses and lichens. It's boulders such as this, 50+ tons of them in fact, that were used to anchor the new Kathleen Smith Moss Garden being established in the Culberson Asiatic Arboretum.*



Looking back over the development of the Arboretum, if one were to generate a list of its most energetic and supportive donors and advocates, the name Kathleen Smith – Kathy, to her many friends – would arise early and appear often. A bold lantern carved of stone stands at the heart of the Arboretum – given by Kathy in memory of her husband, Waverly. A goldfish hangs out below the curbstones spanning a small, quiet pool given in memory of her daughter Cheryl. Early last year, however, the time came to consider what feature we might create to remember Kathy, and out of many conversations, in which she was a participant, the idea of a peaceful, contemplative garden of boulders and mosses was born.



**moss garden**  
Japanese landscape designer Katsuhito Nakasone demonstrates moss placement for workshop participants at Duke Gardens' new Moss Garden.

The cultivation of mosses is not a new idea in the Arboretum. In fact as far back as 1993 volunteer Barbara Kremen, the Arboretum's consummate moss devotee, was planting and tending and plucking out little weeds from a "moss island" we undertook to create. When the island proved unsuitable, our efforts refocused upon a shady embankment beneath a majestic white oak. Here, for years, we successfully cultivated and expanded the existing mosses, and established many more that had been rescued from area woodlands and roadsides.



## BRYOLOGISTS

– scientists who study mosses – differ in opinion about just how many species of mosses exist worldwide; estimates range between 10,000 and 15,000. North Carolina boasts around 400 taxa; our garden will probably display around 15 to 20, of which only a few, namely those most applicable to the conditions of our site, will dominate. Some examples are *Anomodon attenuatus* with lichens on a rock (above); *Leucobryum albidum* on a rotting stump (at right); *Atrichum angustatum* (below); and *Bryoandersonia illecebra* (pg. 5)

bry•ol•o•gists



But alas, this ideal environment was fundamentally changed by a freak windstorm that blew through on a hot afternoon in June 2010 – one big blow and an oak born of an acorn contemporary with Andrew Jackson’s presidency lay on the ground, or, more precisely, on the moss.

During my career as a public gardener, advice about how to resolve various and sundry horticultural problems has often been solicited, but a few questions are repeatedly asked more than others. One has been, “How do I get rid of moss?” Of course my current response would be something like, “Invite me and my spade over!”

Seriously, though, the virtues of moss have historically been unappreciated by gardeners in the United States, especially in the South, where many are the times I’ve heard them referred to as “weeds.” Such disdain is not universal, however; perhaps the best example of the contrary is the love affair Japanese gardeners have for centuries had with moss.



The beauty of gardens either devoted to moss, or in which moss is invited and encouraged, cannot be overstated. In their tiny nature mosses appear delicate and fragile, and in this regard they contrast well with the strong and seemingly eternal qualities of stone. But they present their own strength by knitting together, as it were, trees and boulders and other elements of the garden, and securing them to a peaceful and verdant landscape.

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Despite having been previously overlooked by gardeners, today the acceptance and use of moss in landscapes and containerized displays is growing in popularity – one might even say it’s hot! Just Google a phrase such as “gardening with moss” and you’ll be rewarded with thousands of “hits” providing information, discussion and resources. As it matures, the Kathy Smith Moss Garden will also serve as an educational resource and provide a great example of the quiet beauty and interest that mosses can contribute to a garden.



Jason Holmes and Jan Watson look at the fallen oak where many mosses grew.

## viewpoints

*On the Beischer Bench and a budding friendship*



**Sarah Cairney Sumner**  
*Duke graduate (T’97)*

My favorite spot in the Gardens is at the Beischer Bench. I met my now husband on the second day of school in 1993 and we started dating for a few months. We lived on North Campus and loved taking walks through the Gardens, and we found a lovely bench to sit and chat and get to know each other.

We kind of drifted apart during school and took a decade off from dating before we got back together again. I was making a cross-country drive from Maryland to be with him in Texas and just had to stop on the way and see Duke. I took some time in the Gardens and found the Beischer Bench again (it had moved) and took a few pictures. Needless to say, he was very surprised when we were decorating our new apartment that one of the pictures I framed was the bench, and I had a close-up shot of the name plaque. It is still on our wall.

In honor of this meaningful bench, we named our daughter Juliet Beischer Sumner.



“Why try to explain miracles to your kids when you can just have them plant a garden.”

-Robert Brault

The spring schedule has also brought us a series of free, drop-in **Discovery Days**, **Family Fun Days** and a **Spring Field Day**. The Discovery Garden is the perfect spot for families to gather at these celebrations to enjoy some hands-on nature projects, experiments, stories, gardening lessons, demonstrations and other fun activities to help deepen their connection with and understanding of nature. Look for more drop-in celebrations this fall.

We welcome **school groups** in the Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden, with a range of programs to suit the core curriculum of each grade level, including “Farming and Folk Tales,” “Soil City,” “Garden Food Web,” “Discovery Garden Program” and others. Pre-registration and fees are required.

The garden is also a hands-on site for adult classes on vegetable gardening and related topics. And the **Master Gardeners’ Extension Gardener Series** includes a season of free, hands-on short classes, from “Worms in my Garden: Vermicomposting” to “The Buzz about Bees” and “Gourds, Squash and Pumpkins.” Pre-registration is required.

Each season, local hunger relief organizations will receive the harvest from the Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden. In 2012, our first half year, we were able to donate approximately 800 pounds of fresh produce to the community.

The Duke Gardens staff is also expanding the garden with a new herb garden area, a richly planted food forest, and additional ways to help visitors understand how the garden works with nature to maximize food production with minimal impact on the land.

Whether you’re involved in a class or visiting your favorite chicken, you’ll find that the Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden changes every day and invites you back to explore further.



## NATIONAL HONORS

The Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden has already earned kudos on a local and national level. The **Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES)** awarded the garden two stars in its groundbreaking national certification pilot program, which promotes and measures sustainable land development and management practices. The garden is one of 15 sites nationwide that had attained certification as of March. To read more about SITES, please go to [sustainablesites.org](http://sustainablesites.org).

In addition, the garden received a **2012 Golden Leaf Award** for landscape and maintenance from the Durham City-County Appearance Commission and Keep Durham Beautiful.

An organic food garden that opened in September 2012, the Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden focuses on sustainable practices, hands-on horticulture, and nature discovery for people of all ages. It also features the Burpee Learning Center, a tobacco barn reconstructed from two historic barns donated by former Duke Gardens associate director Larry Daniel. We hope you will visit and let us know what you think of this exciting new garden.



# growing programs in the Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden

By Jan Little, *Director of Education and Public Programs*, and Kavanah Anderson, *Education Program Coordinator*

The Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden invites exploration. Ripening blueberries, the Annie Nashold Story Circle, flowers, bees, chickens, a cantaloupe cascading over the beautiful stone wall – everywhere you look there are gifts from the earth.

This spring marks a year since the Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden was dedicated. By May, garden beds will be bursting with broccoli, chard, turnips, beets, carrots and potatoes. Beans, okra, melon, squash, corn, tomatoes and other summertime favorites will be close behind. But this garden offers more than a bounty of produce. As the name suggests, it is about discovery. This garden invites people of all ages to learn and celebrate that bounty.

### JOIN US TO SEE WHAT YOU CAN DISCOVER:

Children ages 4 to 5 can learn about how a garden grows in the hands-on **Nature for Seedlings** series. Over a 6-week period, young gardeners will see the entire life cycle of a plant and get to taste something that grew from seeds they planted. We’re also offering **Family Workshops**, so that children and parents can discover the pleasures of gardening together. **Spring Break and summer campers** will spend lots of time in the garden, learning how food gets to their plates and enjoying thematic programs in ecological art and other topics. Pre-registration and fees are required for each of these programs. Please see our complete program descriptions at [gardens.duke.edu](http://gardens.duke.edu) or in the Education and Events Guide.



# Terrace Gardens shaping the seasons

By Mike Owens, *Curator, Historic Gardens*



I have often overheard people talking about the floral displays in the Terraces and have had them tell me how much they love the variety of plants and combinations. I wonder if they know how much work we put into planning the designs for these seasonal displays. It's a lengthy process, but here is an overview of how it all comes together and what we seek to accomplish.

developing the design concepts and bed layouts. The Terrace Gardens feature 28 bed pairs (56 individual beds) and several smaller side beds that we design each season. And timing is everything. We start with a generalized concept, which may be coordinated with the annual displays in the Doris Duke Center Gardens. These concepts may be color oriented, for example, using pastels, hot colors or a color spectrum. We may

*The hardest part of doing the annual displays for the terraces is developing the design concepts and the bed layouts. The Terrace Gardens feature 28 bed pairs and several smaller side beds that we design each season. And timing is everything.*

When I began to take over designing the Terrace Gardens about 10 years ago, I wanted the annual displays to serve as inspiration to visitors and other professionals. Drawing ideas from other gardens and landscapers, I began to explore ways in which annuals have been and could be used along with perennials, shrubs, bulbs, containers and even vegetables. The goal was to try to show interesting combinations and introduce some of the newest annuals hitting the market. The hardest part of doing the annual displays for the terraces is

also highlight one type of plant or plant group. For example, last year we used vegetables and other farm-oriented crops such as cotton. In other years we have used grasses, palms, perennials or shrubs, and this year we're featuring several varieties of coleus.

From this general concept, we form a more specific plan, starting with foliage and flower color. This year, we're using hot colors in the center of the terraces to draw the eye inward, fading out

## terrace gardens

At left, from top down: allium 'Ambassador' & foxglove 'Candy Mountain'; 'Solstice Pink' and 'Solstice Burgundy' snapdragons; tulips & violas. Opposite page: Dutch iris 'Blue Magic'. Page 10: anemone 'Lord Lieutenant'.



to cool pastels. The beds furthest from the center will be cool blues, violet and silvers. With this basic framework, we then select individual annuals that fit the color requirements.

In addition to color, we must also take into account the foliage heights and textures, to ensure that the plants will stand out and contrast well with each other. We consider bloom times, plant spacing and the various patterns in the individual beds. We also want to ensure that adjacent beds' colors don't clash, and we like to link neighboring beds by incorporating the same color, texture or plant.

Another design consideration is whether to use formal patterns or a more loose, cottage-style design. Sometimes we'll alternate this concept every other terrace, or we'll use cottage designs in beds with walls behind them. We're also able to use taller plants in the wall beds, where they won't obscure the view.

The winter/spring bed designs have another level of complexity because we use so many spring flowering bulbs. In past years the beds were mostly planted with pansies, with tulips coming up through them in the outer beds; the inner beds with walls behind them were filled with annuals such as dianthus and snapdragon.

The prime season for the spring tulip show is usually the first two weeks in April. We are now extending the bulb season using early-blooming bulbs such as daffodils, crocus, hyacinths and snowdrops, and later-blooming alliums, Dutch iris, ranunculus, and many others.

Not only do we coordinate the bulb bloom time to the annuals, but we select them based on color concepts, often using complementary or analagous colors. Sometimes we will use several of the same types of bulbs such as tulips, where we may use complementary or analagous colors, solids vs. bicolors, or contrasting flower shapes. We are now using perennials or biennials like foxgloves coupled with bulbs like the giant alliums, to accentuate the contrast between the spikey stems and more rounded flower forms.

The designs may take several weeks to complete. We use photos of every plant and bulb to compare flowers, colors

and foliage textures. I also do sketches and plan drawings comparing heights, textures and spacing of the plants.

Once the designs are done, we have to count the number of plants we need. This job uses our first-hand knowledge of each plant's growth habits and characteristics. We finish this process four or five months in advance of planting, so nurseries have time to get the seeds and grow the plants we need.

As for when to change the plantings, we try to be mindful of high visitation times and Duke's calendar of events. For example, we try to leave the spring displays in until Commencement so that Duke students and families may enjoy special events and photo portraits in the Terrace Gardens. But if some beds look weak, we will pull them out and plant the next season's annuals. We usually maintain the summer beds through mid-October, pulling out weaker beds and filling them with chrysanthemums for a splash of fall color. We begin planting the winter/spring display sometime in late October. Our planting technique is to do our seasonal changes on a few beds at a time, enabling seasonal transformations to happen subtly and without impacting the dramatic impact of the Terrace Gardens as a whole. Even spread out over time, these changeovers involve a lot of digging. This year, we're using around 28,000 bulbs for the spring display alone. Each summer season we may have from 100 to 150 different annuals and perennials.

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We continue to learn more each year we do the designs and try to improve upon what we have learned the previous year. We are very grateful for a Terrace Gardens endowment that lets us put on these displays that so many can appreciate.

## How it all began

The Terrace Gardens were dedicated in 1939, and they were the central element of Duke Gardens at the time. Accomplished landscape architect Ellen Biddle Shipman designed the terraces. The beds at the time featured perennials, annuals, bulbs, roses, peonies, irises, small flowering trees, and evergreen shrubs, mixed together to create an all-encompassing garden.

As the years went by, Duke Gardens grew, and many of the plantings would be represented elsewhere in the Gardens – for example, in what is now the Mary Duke Biddle Rose Garden. The plantings also became more simplified for ease of turnover and maintenance, due to the Gardens' limited resources in earlier decades.

The original terrace plans primarily used perennials and concentrated on the spring and fall seasons, since that's when visitation was the highest. But now that Duke Gardens has grown to be a year-round destination, we work hard to design terrace displays that will please visitors no matter when they come.











# digging deeper: Gardens supporters on the roots of their passions

## THOMAS HARDING

*Gardens volunteer & docent*

*On the restorative power of Duke Gardens*

From that day 10 years ago when I first set out for the Gardens, where I hoped to find just a modicum of solace, the Gardens have been to me, as Wordsworth might say, a “pleasant lea [full of] glimpses that would make me less forlorn.” And through my commerce with the beauty of the Gardens, I feel a sanguine renewal of life (not only emotionally but physically; for the moment I reach the conifers that stand like kindly, salutary sentinels near the entry way on Anderson, the air has a purity that it does not have outside the Gardens).

Of necessity, my communion with the Gardens is almost daily. For I share the solicitude expressed by E.B. White in the quotation that Rachel Carson placed at the beginning of “Silent Spring”: “I am pessimistic about the human race because it is too ingenious for its own good. Our approach to nature is to beat it into submission. We would stand a better chance of survival if we accommodated ourselves to this planet and viewed it appreciatively instead of skeptically and dictatorially.” But the simple valedictory of the unpretentious and gifted editor William Shawn to the staff of the New Yorker upon his retirement from the magazine (which had serialized parts of “Silent Spring” when other magazines were fearful of doing so) sums up the reason the Gardens lift me from despair and fill me with hopefulness: “Love has been the controlling emotion, and love is the essential word. We have done our work with honesty and love.”

The same is to be said of the staff of the Gardens. They have done and do their work with love and honesty (the honesty of never having to rationalize the effects of the profession they have chosen). They have done it so well that many places in the Gardens give one the impression that humankind has had no hand in it at all, that it is Nature alone that has done it. The naturalist David Culross Peattie, sadly all but forgotten today,

remarked: “You cannot mount a rock and preach to a tree how it shall attain the kingdom of heaven. It is already closer to it, up there, than you will grow to be.” But you can place a rock besprent with lichens, or a young, delicate magnolia grown from seeds harvested in China, so perfectly that the spirit of the place where they have been sited seems far more heavenly than earthly. In their doing just this – with love, discernment and the realization that it is a legal fiction that the living have no heirs – the staff (whose deeds will one day be as beneficial to those as yet unborn as they are to their coevals) enhances the beauty of the Gardens I love beyond measure by giving me cause to believe there is hope for humankind.

In his dedicatory address on the opening of the Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden, President Richard H. Brodhead recalled how every patch of his grandfather’s yard was covered with plants, which he attributed to his grandfather’s good fortune of having participated as a boy in a horticultural program for children. When I see children, full of amazement, in the Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden, I think what a truly enlightening and democratic gift the Gardens has given the community.

.....  
*...you can place a rock besprent with lichens, or a young, delicate magnolia grown from seeds harvested in China, so perfectly that the spirit of the place where they have been sited seems far more heavenly than earthly.*  
.....

And a pleasing thought comes to mind: in their old age, may they never have cause to speak of it as something that is gone, but instead as something that has endured and left so lasting an impression on them that it governed how they lived in their lives – in harmony with Nature.



Do you have a special connection with Duke Gardens?  
If so, we’d love to hear about it.  
Please write to Flora at [orla.swift@duke.edu](mailto:orla.swift@duke.edu)



# a redesign online

Duke Gardens' new website is ready to launch at [gardens.duke.edu](http://gardens.duke.edu). We hope you will take time to explore it and that you will find it helpful.



The primary goals for the new site were to reflect the Gardens' beauty with lots of stunning photographs, and to make it clear, uncluttered and intuitive to navigate. The old website was more than a decade old and lacked the modern elements that people have come to expect online.

One integral and exciting feature of the new site is the ability to have slideshows on the top of all pages. This will enable us to feature many photos from our volunteer photographers and staff, and to add timely photos into the mix without eliminating the classic iconic views that we love. In the blue-screened background, you'll also see stunning floral photos by volunteer photographer Cal Wong.

On the new In Bloom page, you can check out what flowers typically bloom in the current month and plan your visits accordingly.

Coalmarch Productions in Raleigh created the design, working with Orla Swift, Duke Gardens' director of marketing and communications, and with Duke University's office of Marketing and Strategic Communications. Coalmarch will continue to work with the Gardens for several months to observe metrics and how users navigate through the site, and to help us take advantage of ways to use the website to raise the Gardens' profile locally and nationally.

Please visit [gardens.duke.edu](http://gardens.duke.edu) and let us know what you think. Send your feedback to [orla.swift@duke.edu](mailto:orla.swift@duke.edu) or call Orla at 919-668-6451. If you have a Gardens photo you've taken and would like to be considered for a slideshow, we'd love to see that, too.

## news & notes

### MUSIC IN THE GARDENS

Duke Performances will bring its Music in the Gardens outdoor concert series back to Duke Gardens this summer. The Wednesday night series will feature the following bands:

- JUNE 5:** JKutchma & the Five Fifths
- JUNE 12:** David Wax Museum
- JUNE 19:** The Tender Fruit
- JUNE 26:** Diali Cissokho & Kaira Ba
- JULY 10:** American Aquarium
- JULY 17:** Kenny Roby
- JULY 24:** Matthew E. White
- JULY 31:** Hiss Golden Messenger



Diali Cissokho & Kaira Ba

All concerts will take place rain or shine on the lawn behind the Doris Duke Center. Shows are at 7 p.m. The lawn will open 30 minutes prior to the start of each show. Lawn chairs, picnics and blankets are encouraged. Dogs are not allowed. Food and beverages, including beer and wine, will be available for purchase.

Tickets are \$12; \$10 for Duke employees or students; free for children age 12 or younger. They are available at [tickets.duke.edu](http://tickets.duke.edu) or 919-684-4444. For more information, please go to [dukeperformances.duke.edu](http://dukeperformances.duke.edu).

### CIOMPI QUARTET PRESENTS

Duke Gardens is once again partnering with Ciompi Quartet, Duke's Department of Music and the Office of the Vice Provost for the Arts for a summer chamber music series.

"Ciompi Quartet Presents" will take place on three Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in Kirby Horton Hall in the Doris Duke Center. Each will feature one or more members of the Ciompi Quartet with guest artists.

Tickets are \$20; \$5 for students. They're available at [tickets.duke.edu](http://tickets.duke.edu) or by calling 919-684-4444. Parking is free after 5 p.m. For more information, please go to [ciompi.org](http://ciompi.org).

#### THE CONCERTS AND CIOMPI MUSICIANS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- MAY 28:** Eric Pritchard (violin)
- JULY 2:** Jonathan Bagg (viola)
- AUGUST 13:** Fred Raimi (cello)

### NEW MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Teresa Dark

The Friends of Duke Gardens annual membership levels have been expanded to include four new levels of basic membership. We've created a discounted member rate for Duke students and Duke Gardens volunteers, two of our most valued partners. We've also added individual, dual and family membership levels.

Two new gift recognition society levels, the Iris Society and the Mary D.B.T. Semans Society, provide more choices in levels of support for Duke Gardens. And membership benefits have been added or modified slightly for all levels.

We value your support and participation and thank you for providing more than half of our yearly operations budget. Support from our Friends is critical to nurture our Gardens now and for the future.

If you have questions, please email [teresa.dark@duke.edu](mailto:teresa.dark@duke.edu) or call 919-684-5579. I welcome your feedback and suggestions. Thank you for your vital support of Duke Gardens both financially and through volunteer service.

## NEW STAFF



**BETH HALL** (Paul J. Kramer plant collections manager) grew up in San Diego. She earned her bachelor's in horticultural science from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, with minors in botany and plant protection science. Before coming to Duke, she completed a curatorial internship at Longwood Gardens,

during which time her passion for collections management and plant records grew. She most recently finished an apprenticeship at Filoli, where she worked with records and maintenance of a historic garden.



**MATTHEW LUKS** (assistant horticulturist) has been gardening ever since his childhood in rural Maine. He holds a bachelor's degree in Asian studies from Guilford College, as well as a degree in landscape gardening from Sandhills Community College. He interned at the Gardens in 2011 and is very

happy to be a part of the dynamic team here. He greatly enjoys all aspects of being a horticulturist, especially the art of pruning.



**ANNABEL RENWICK** (horticulturist) is British, with a BSc and PhD in plant science. She worked for 20 years in agricultural research in the U.K., Germany and France. She then changed careers to follow her passion for gardening. After gaining a diploma in garden

design at the English Garden School in Chelsea, London, she set up her own garden design business. In 2008 Annabel's family moved to North Carolina. Driven by a desire to understand the native plants and local environment, in spring 2009 she volunteered for work in the Blomquist Garden. She joined the staff in 2012.

## MOVING ON



### HEATHER SEIFERT

Duke Gardens assistant horticulturist Heather Seifert left the Gardens this spring for a fantastic new job as director of the Wing Haven and Elizabeth Lawrence Gardens in Charlotte.

Heather started at Duke Gardens as a volunteer for two years, then as a summer intern, having made a midlife career shift after 25 years as the director of a nonprofit organization focusing on historic preservation. She joined the Gardens staff in 2012.

Heather has a passion for historical and formal gardens, so the Charlotte gardens will be perfect for her. But we will miss her greatly.

## SMOKE-FREE GARDENS

Duke Gardens is now a smoke-free destination, in keeping with the increasing number of smoke-free environments throughout Duke University and Durham.

Beginning in January 2012, signs were posted asking visitors to please refrain from smoking both indoors and out at Duke Gardens. Visitors and Duke employees have been cooperative and understanding.

The no-smoking request is among several policy guidelines we have posted prominently this year at Gardens entrances so that visitors will have a clearer understanding of what behaviors help make this botanic garden an enjoyable destination for all.

## PRESIDENTIAL AWARD



Paul D. Jones, curator of the Culberson Asiatic Arboretum, has received one of the highest honors given to Duke University staff and faculty: the Presidential Award.

"In every one of the thousands of units that make up the university, there are people who lead the effort in bringing the highest competence, the highest imagination, the highest pride in service to their work," Duke University President Richard H. Brodhead has said of the award, which includes a medallion and a \$1,000 check. "That's what it takes to make a great university."

In his 29 years at Duke Gardens, Jones has shaped the Asiatic Arboretum from a small Asian-themed garden into the informative and evocative 15-acre display that visitors love today.

"Since the arboretum's inception, hundreds of thousands of visitors have become enlightened on Asian garden culture represented by the richly diverse collection of Asian plant material and artifacts Paul has thoughtfully arranged," Bobby Mottern, director of horticulture, wrote in his nomination letter.

Jones earned a botany degree at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he began his career as curator of the Coker Arboretum. In 1984 Dr. William L. Culberson, botany department chair and director of Duke Gardens at that time, enticed him to Duke with "a vision to create a very special area in Duke Gardens that would not only enhance the daily life of the growing population of Asian students and staff, but also develop more of an appreciation of Asian culture throughout the entire campus," Mottern wrote. "Paul was the person to bring that vision to reality, which he has skillfully done."

Jones' expertise focuses on plants from China and Japan, and through the years he has made multiple exploratory treks to those countries, bringing back an array of unique plant specimens from remote regions.

Please join us in congratulating Paul for his impressive accomplishments.

## TOP 10 HONOR

Duke Gardens has been named one of the top 10 public gardens in the U.S. by the travel website tripadvisor.com.

The honor was based on positive reviews by site users. The Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens took the No. 1 honor. Among the other winners were Longwood Gardens and the Missouri Botanical Garden. For a full list, please go to the April 3 post at [blog.tripadvisor.com](http://blog.tripadvisor.com).

## JAPANESE GARDEN GUIDANCE

*Paul D. Jones*

Sadafumi Uchiyama, landscape architect and curator of the Portland Japanese Garden, has been hired as the lead designer for the Japanese-style garden being planned for the Culberson Asiatic Arboretum. Late last fall, landscape designers Katsuhito Nakasone from Toyama, Japan, and Mike Oshita from Asheville were invited by the Gardens and Mr. Uchiyama to collaborate at the presentation of the initial design.

Nakasone's visit was co-sponsored by the Sister Cities of Durham and Toyama, as it was when he visited in 2009. In addition to offering in-depth discussions about the Japanese garden, our three Japanese guests also led a workshop on creating a moss garden. Mr. Uchiyama is scheduled to return again this spring with a revised and expanded landscape plan.

## CHINESE GARDEN PLANS

*Paul D. Jones*

A Chinese-style garden to be built in the Culberson Asiatic Arboretum became one step closer to reality last summer with the signing of a Sister City friendship agreement between the cities of Durham and Zhuzhou in Hunan, China.

Using the Durham-Toyama Sister Cities Pavilion as an example of the great success that can be achieved collaborating with the Gardens, the Durham Sister Cities organization immediately began pursuit of a similar project that will honor the new partnership with Zhuzhou. Currently, two committees have been set up. One will manage fundraising. The second, chaired by Duke Gardens Director Emeritus Richard White, will facilitate the design process. A search for design consultants is in process.



## JAPANESE STUDENT TEA

Thirty-two visiting students from Toyama, Japan, one of Durham's Sister Cities, took part in a traditional Japanese Tea Gathering in February in the Durham-Toyama Sister Cities Japanese Pavilion of Duke Gardens' Culberson Asiatic Arboretum.

Nancy Hamilton, Duke Gardens' coordinator of cultural programming, who is trained in the Urasenke tradition of tea and speaks Japanese, helped the young visitors understand the meaning and importance of the tea tradition. None of these students from the Toyama College of Foreign Language had experienced a traditional Japanese Tea before their visit to Duke Gardens.

Toyama is one of five cities around the world that have partnerships with Durham through the international Sister Cities program.

## HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

The Durham branch of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina was able to provide hundreds of meals to needy families over the winter, thanks to a holiday food drive spearheaded by Duke Gardens curator Jason Holmes in November.

The staff and volunteers of Duke Gardens filled a pickup truck with 655 pounds of food, baby supplies and related products sought by the Food Bank for its clients' use year-round. That's roughly twice what we raised in the first food drive last year. Thanks to all who participated. We look forward to seeing if we can raise that total further next year.

## NEW DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

Visitors will enjoy a new sense of direction beginning this spring in the Gardens. You may have noticed that there are way-finding signs posted around the Gardens at key intersections. Each has a listing of what choices you may make from that intersection and arrows to point you on your way.

In addition, there are now policy signs at each public entrance/parking lot. These help visitors understand what activities are good choices in a botanical garden. Each of the requests helps maintain a garden that is enjoyable for all.

Two opportunities have shaped this work. Education program coordinator Kavanah Anderson attended a workshop at the Phipps Conservatory about conservation psychology to learn more about effective messaging and creating change in people's behavior. Then Jan Little, director of education and public programs, attended a week-long workshop at the Huntington Library and Botanical Garden about developing effective communication tools for visitors.

Both workshops offered specific strategies and evaluation tools that will benefit our interpretive work here at Duke Gardens.

Our signs are just a first draft. We would love to hear from you about ways to improve them. So please take a walk around and let us know what you think.



## BLOMQUIST BRIDGES

*Stefan Bloodworth*

The first structure built in the Blomquist Garden is nearing the end of its time. A wooden footbridge, constructed of metal I-beam supports, southern yellow pine decking and rails and red cedar posts, has been in place since 1968. Hundreds of thousands of visitors have wandered across its weathered boards and rested against its aging rails while enjoying the Blomquist Garden across seasons and decades.

For the past five years, plans for a replacement have been percolating and taking shape, and a beautiful new concept has emerged. The "Woodland Bridge" is now in the fine detail phase of construction planning, and the new arts and crafts inspired design, nurtured by the horticultural staff and brought to life visually by Swanson and Associates Landscape Architects, will be a stunning addition to the Blomquist Garden.

To see the old bridge, simply enter the garden through the Blomquist Gatehouse and head east. Take your first left, and walk across the existing bridge for perhaps the last time. Afterward, consider heading up the hill to the southeast to visit the brand new Edwin F. Steffek Jr. Bridge and newly renovated Fern Grotto. Both of these projects were completed in 2012. Coupled with the newly constructed cedar handrails throughout the Blomquist, they paint a picture of a garden where there is a lot to be excited about!

## viewpoints

*On a day of decision  
at Duke Gardens*



**Michelle  
Middleton  
Woodson**

*Duke graduate (T'94)*

My connection with Duke Gardens began even before I became a student. I was in the process of visiting a number of universities in the Southeast before my senior year in high school. I was struck immediately by the beauty of the Duke campus and the Gardens. I remember thinking that Duke's academic campus looked exactly like what I envisioned college should look like, with large stone

buildings separated by green, grassy spaces where students lounged and studied.

The campus tour ended in the Gardens, which were actively in bloom, and I was overwhelmed with a very tangible sense that this is where I belong. My mind was made up that very day. I applied early decision and knew before Christmas break that I was going to Duke.



## SUMMER INTERNS

*Michelle Rawlins, Horticulturist & Intern Program Coordinator*

Duke Gardens benefited from a bright group of interns in summer 2012. The interns helped in all parts of the Gardens but also pursued projects of special interest.

**ALEX NISBET**, a horticulture technology major at Alamance Community College, helped curator Stefan Bloodworth build and install the natural cedar handrails in the Blomquist Garden of Native Plants.

**MAURISHA MEYER**, of University of Wisconsin-River Falls, worked closely with curator Mike Owens and horticulturist Jan Watson to redesign and plant the iris bed on the Hanes Lawn.

**YONGDAN CHUNYU**, a horticulture and crop production major at the University of Maryland, worked with curator Jason Holmes and horticulturist Lindsey Fleetwood to research rain gardens. The information they gathered will help with educational materials for the Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden.

**CAITLIN DAVIS**, a horticultural sciences major at N.C. State University, gathered information on the Japanese Tea Garden that may be used in a brochure in the future. Davis had a particular interest in this topic because she studied Japanese and her family had hosted Japanese exchange students.

*We look forward to welcoming our 2013 interns and further enhancing our program to benefit the interns and Duke Gardens.*



## A SERENE MEMORIAL

After spending many weekend hours relaxing and building special memories in the Terrace Gardens and South Lawn with their children, Roger and Nancy Callanan thought Duke Gardens would be the perfect place to honor the memory of their daughter, Angela Rae Callanan Joseph (T'02), after she lost her battle with cancer in 2011.

Angela's parents, her husband, James Joseph (E'01), and other family members approached Duke Gardens to have a unique bench placed in the South Lawn to honor Angela's memory. The beautiful teak bench is located under the large magnolia tree where Angela used to play, and where she later studied when she was a student at Duke. Angela's family visits her bench often and continues to enjoy spending time reflecting on the wonderful memories they made over the years.

"We hope Angela's bench and the magnolia under which it is snuggled might become your favorite place – to picnic, to roll down grassy hills," Roger Callanan says of the bench, "to call your own, and to create loving family memories."

## ADOPT A FLORAL BED

Would you like to honor a family member or friend with a named project in Duke Gardens? We have a program in place that allows a donor to adopt a beautiful floral bed in the Historic Terraces for a two-year renewable term for only \$2,500. A dedication plaque is placed in the bed for the adoption term.

This is a lovely and affordable way to honor someone dear to you or a special occasion. Your gift will support the Historic Gardens. For more information, please email [teresa.dark@duke.edu](mailto:teresa.dark@duke.edu) or call Teresa Dark at 919-684-5579.

## BLUE DEVIL OF THE WEEK:



Nancy Hamilton, Duke Gardens' cultural programming coordinator, was named "Blue Devil of the Week" by Duke University's news staff in September.

In a Q&A posted online at Duke Today, Hamilton shared the best advice she'd ever received.

"My mother said if I studied what I loved, I would end up doing what I loved. She was right. I took a course on Asian religions my second semester at Duke that introduced me to Japanese culture and changed my life." To read the full article, search for "Nancy Hamilton" at [today.duke.edu](http://today.duke.edu).

Alas, Hamilton will be leaving Duke Gardens. Her husband, Jay Hamilton, director of Duke's DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy, will head to Stanford University in the fall to direct its graduate journalism program and teach.

This will bring Hamilton back to the tea community where she began her formal training: the Urasenke Foundation of San Francisco. She plans to further her studies of tea there, and to go deeper into the practice. "Nothing has given me greater pleasure than to share what I have learned here in North Carolina," Hamilton says, "and to bring the tradition of tea alive together with my tea colleagues for our guests at Duke Gardens."

## BENCH DEDICATION

*Teresa Dark*

The beautiful half-circle Duke Stone bench overlooking the South Lawn in the Historic Gardens will be dedicated in memory of Sterly Lebey Wilder and Pelham Wilder Jr.

Professor Pelham Wilder served Duke for more than 60 years and passed away last fall. He and his wife, Sterly Lebey, moved to Durham in 1949 and raised a family of three children, Pelham, Ann and Sterly, who maintain their father's close ties to Duke. Pelham loved Duke, and his gift will be enjoyed by not only the Duke Community but Gardens visitors from around the world.



## FREE OUTDOOR YOGA

In keeping with our new Health & Wellness Series, Duke Gardens will host "Durham Asana to Savasana" on June 22, a morning of yoga celebrating American Dance Festival, community and friendship.

Duke Gardens is partnering with the American Dance Festival and Lululemon Athletica to produce this free special event, which will run from 7 to 10 a.m. in various parts of the Gardens. You may remember Lululemon's enormously popular Salutation Nation outdoor yoga event at Duke Gardens in summer 2010, part of the fitness apparel company's free yoga celebration throughout North America.

The morning will kick off with a 7 to 8 a.m. sunrise yoga class behind the Doris Duke Center, to awaken the body and soul. From 8:15 to 8:45 a.m. in the nearby garden surrounding the Seven-tiered Pagoda in the Asiatic Arboretum, there'll be a meditation to connect the mind. From 9 to 10 a.m., we'll breathe and flow together in a yoga practice on the South Lawn.

*We hope you'll join us for this special celebration of yoga and nature.*

# a closer look: Duke Gardens curators on interesting plants in their gardens



## ALLIUM 'AMBASSADOR'

One of the highlights of the spring floral display in the Terraces is the bloom of the ornamental onion, *Allium* 'Ambassador'. Each spring, usually in early to mid-May, this 4- to 5-foot-tall bulb shows off its rich violet flower color in the form of a 5- to 6-inch ball perched on top of a single stem. Each of these "flower balls" actually comprises many smaller flowers, making an eye-popping spring showstopper.

There are many varieties of ornamental onions, but this one's stem is particularly sturdy and long lasting, holding itself upright even in bad weather. Ornamental onions are also generally left alone by deer and other animals.

For one stunning display, we use this allium in a mass planting coming up through a sea of yellow-blooming yarrow (*Achillea* 'Moonshine'). *Allium* ambassador's bloom time and violet color, complementing the yarrow's yellow flowers, make it one of the most striking combinations in the spring.

We plant 3-inch in diameter bulbs in November, along with the yarrows, pansies, tulips and other spring display plants. These bulbs can naturalize if left alone to finish their growing cycle, which ends in late spring or early summer.

When the foliage dies, it can be cut back and removed. If the bulbs are in a bed that is going to be tilled and replanted, they can be dug up and stored until fall in buckets of pine bark or by themselves in a cool, dark and dry place. Another benefit of this bulb is that after the color has faded, the seed-heads can be cut off along with the stalks and dried for use in flower arrangements.

- Mike Owens, Curator, Historic Gardens

## DWARF YUNNAN BANANA

How about a bit of a tropical look for your garden? Okay, banana! We've known for years now that certain species of banana, a plant typically associated with tropics, will tolerate our frigid winters absolutely fine – just a perennial on steroids, as it were. *Musa basjoo*, the hardy Japanese banana, is most common, but in recent years several other hardy species have been introduced.

For some gardeners, however – for example, those with spatial challenges – bananas may be just too large. Enter *Musella lasiocarpa*. Also commonly referred to as dwarf Chinese banana, *Musella* is a monotypic genus – meaning that there is only one species – native to Yunnan, China. In the wild it is thought to be nearly extinct, which probably has something to do with the fact that small farmers routinely feed all parts of the plant to their pigs. Fortunately, *Musella* has found a niche in Western gardens, preserving its genes for now at least.

In addition to its low stature and lush, tropical foliage, *M. lasiocarpa* sports some very cool, long lasting inflorescences, which superficially resemble the unopened flower bud of the sacred lotus, *Nelumbo nucifera*, hence another name it's commonly known by: golden lotus banana.

- Paul D. Jones, Curator, Culberson Asiatic Arboretum

## PAWPAW

It was the year 1541, and Hernando de Soto and his expedition were hiking the Mississippi River basin and regions east. Exploring is hungry work, and, lacking igloo coolers to help preserve their supply of foodstuffs, DeSoto's men were grateful whenever a reliable source of wild edibles could be located. The native peoples of the Deep South obliged by teaching them how to identify yummy stuff, and many a Spaniard ate his fill of our native bounty. One of the fruits that de Soto's men came to love during their time in the southeastern U.S. was the pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*), probably so named due to its superficial similarities to another fruit they had been introduced to earlier, the tropical papaya from Central and South America.

Found in modern times along streams and river bottoms from New York to Florida, pawpaw is a small tree of up to 20 feet that forms thick colonies in rich, moist soil. Although its flesh is quite tasty, often described as a mixture of a mango and a banana, *Asimina triloba* has heretofore had trouble breaking in to the grocery store fruit counter due to the fact that it ripens quickly and does not ship well.

You can reap the benefits of this special plant in your yard, however, with some care and attention. Find a reliably moist spot where *Asimina triloba* can have partial sun, and get ready to enjoy your own pawpaw patch. Rich soil with a pH leaning towards neutral is a big help, as pawpaw is accustomed to growing in the deep topsoil of our river bottom floodplains. When after a few years you begin to harvest the pear-sized, creamy textured fruits, make sure to save some for me!

- Stefan Bloodworth, Curator, Blomquist Garden of Native Plants

## CHINESE RED NOODLE BEAN

One of the more interesting fruits we grew in the Charlotte Brody Discovery Garden this summer was the Chinese red noodle bean (*Vigna unguiculata*). This bean grows an amazing 18 to 22 inches long and is referred to as "yard long" or asparagus beans. As an annual, this vine grows much the same as other pole bean types and starts producing fruits within 50 to 80 days. The bean is found throughout southern China and is a staple in many Asian-style dishes.

It is recommended that the beans be sown in place. Once mature they start producing beautiful, long, purple-red beans that dangle from trifoliate blue-green leaves. The beans are harvested throughout the summer once the pods have reached pencil thickness, and they will often retain their reddish color when cooked. Red noodle bean is great sautéed, steamed, as a raw snack, in stir-fry or shelled, and the foliage can be cooked as a spinach substitute. Use it in the garden as a distinct ornamental vine and you'll have the benefit of eating it, too.

- Jason Holmes, Curator, Doris Duke Center Gardens



Is there a plant at Duke Gardens that you're curious about?

REQUEST A CLOSER LOOK AT IT BY WRITING TO FLORA AT [ORLA.SWIFT@DUKE.EDU](mailto:ORLA.SWIFT@DUKE.EDU).





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## Nourish Sarah P. Duke Gardens through membership

Duke Gardens is enjoyed free of charge by more than 300,000 people annually. More than half of our operating budget comes from people like you, who value all that this world-class botanic garden has to offer.

Your membership dollars support every aspect of Duke Gardens, from inspired horticultural design to classes and free events for the community, children's programs and many resources that provide the best experience possible for visitors.

All Friends memberships are part of the Duke Annual Fund and are used entirely for the benefit of Duke Gardens. Duke alumni also receive reunion class gift credit. More membership information is available at [gardens.duke.edu](http://gardens.duke.edu) or by calling 919-684-5579. Thank you.

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Duke students and Duke Gardens volunteers	\$ 25
Individual	\$ 50
Dual (spouses/partners)	\$ 75
Family (includes children under age 18)	\$ 100

#### All membership levels include:

- Education program discounts at Duke Gardens & other participating gardens
- 10% discount on Terrace Shop purchases
- Invitations to special Friends events
- Reciprocal admission benefits to more than 200 gardens in the U.S.
- Flora magazine
- Annual report

### ADDITIONAL GIFT RECOGNITION SOCIETIES

*Terraces Society* \$ 250

#### Includes membership benefits above plus:

- Duke Gardens calendar
- 20% discount on Gothic Bookshop purchases (*valid membership card required*)
- 2 complimentary gift memberships

[Please provide names & addresses of recipients]

*Membership  
 makes a great gift!*

*Iris Society* \$ 500

#### Terraces Society benefits plus:

- Duke Gardens note cards
- 2 complimentary registrations for the Gardens' education program

*Pergola Society* \$ 1,000

#### Iris Society benefits plus:

- Complimentary Gardens parking

*Directors Society* \$ 2,500

#### Pergola Society benefits plus:

- Invitation to behind the scenes tour with director of horticulture

*Mary Duke Biddle Society* \$ 5,000

#### Directors Society benefits plus:

- 1 complimentary trolley tour with director, schedule permitting (reservations must be made at least 1 week in advance)

*Mary D. B. T. Semans Society* \$10,000

#### Mary Duke Biddle Society benefits plus:

- Invitation to reception/dinner with a featured guest speaker

*Corporate Friends* \$ 5,000

#### (Excludes matching program gifts)

- Flora magazine
- Annual report
- 1 free space rental at Sarah P. Duke Gardens or in the Doris Duke Center (Mon.-Thurs.) per availability within membership year